

## **Public Utilities Commission**

Joshua B. Epel, Chairman James K. Tarpey, Commissioner Pamela J. Patton, Commissioner Doug Dean, Director

John W. Hickenlooper Governor

> Barbara J.Kelley Executive Director

February 28, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW – A306 Washington, DC 20554

RE: STATUS UPDATE IN THE MATTER OF THE WAIVER ORDER FOR

COLORADO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION IN DOCKET 11-42

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In a filing dated April 6, 2012, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (the "COPUC") requested a temporary waiver of the June 1, 2012 effective date for adopting uniform eligibility criteria in Colorado for the Lifeline program. The waiver was necessary because legislation is required to change existing Colorado law to conform to the requirements of the The Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 12-11)(the "Report and Order"), released on February 6, 2012 The COPUC requested that the effective date for the uniform eligibility criteria be extended until July 1, 2013 for eligible telecommunications carriers in Colorado.

The Federal Communications Commission (the "FCC") granted the COPUC a temporary waiver on May 31, 2012 (DA 12-863). However, the temporary waiver of the uniform eligibility requirements was only granted until April 1, 2013. The FCC noted that if this deadline cannot be met, an additional request for waiver may be filed.

The COPUC hereby provides a status update of legislative actions in Colorado. A legislative bill to repeal the Telephone Assistance Program for low-income individuals has been introduced in the state senate as Senate Bill 13-194. One of the challenges that the COPUC faces is that it has no control over the legislation process, including whether or how swiftly a bill becomes law. The COPUC will make a filing in the very near future requesting an extension of the temporary waiver until July 1, 2013 to allow time for Senate Bill 13-194 to be considered. The COPUC will provide additional updates on the progress of this legislation as they become available.



Questions should be directed to John Scott at (303) 894-2043.

Sincerely,

Doug Dean Director

**Public Utilities Commission** 

Department of Regulatory Agencies

cc: Kimberley Scardino, Jonathan Lechter (electronically)